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matter to be adjusted between the governments of Great Britain and the United States; our Secretary of State, and the British minister at Washington, published a protocol, advising a cessation of all military movements on both sides; but Congress burst at once into a blaze, and passed at a dash the strong acts of \$10,000,000, and 50,000 men, to be used by the President at discretion, for the defence of the country. Here the matter stood at the close of the last session of Congress.

APPEAL TO THE FRIENDS OF PEACE, THROUGHOUT THE
UNITED STATES.*

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,—A crisis has come which demands our united efforts for the preservation of peace between ourselves and a nation from whose enmity we have more to fear, and from whose friendship more to hope for, than from any other nation on the globe. In the present state of feeling, we should expect little or no success from any appeal we could make to politicians; and we therefore turn to the intelligent, pious and philanthropic portion of the community, who hold in their hands a moral power sufficient to avert the catastrophe which now threatens us.

We need not stop to review in detail the steps which have brought us to a crisis so deeply deplorable. The executive of Maine, under cover of expelling trespassers from her soil, has sent an army to take military possession of lands in dispute between Great Britain and the United States; the governor of New Brunswick complains of this act as an encroachment upon the jurisdiction of his sovereign, and says his instructions will oblige him, unless those troops are withdrawn, to repel them by force; and anon we hear from Maine an earnest, impatient call for aid in asserting her claim to the disputed territory by the sword, and a cry for blood in the last resort, echoed through the land by a class of politicians and presses that loudly insist on war as the only means of settling the long-protracted dispute concerning our north-eastern bound-

* This Appeal, issued by our Committee as soon as they saw any serious ground of alarm, was sent to more than fifty newspapers, nearly all religious; but so few of them, not one in five, published it, that we copy it, partly to record our testimony in the case, and partly to let our friends see what sort of a document it was that so many *Christian* editors excluded from their columns, and not a solitary paper of any kind in *Maine* could be persuaded to insert. We rejoice in the assurance, however, that it has met a warm response from the greater part of those who have read it, and trust that Christians, even in Maine, will, when fully recovered from their war-fever, commend us for the prompt and bold stand we took at a time when few were found to lift their voice for moderation and peace.

dary. The storm has not yet come; but we hear the mutterings of the distant thunder. The dogs of war are still chained; but they are growling in their kennel, and waxing fierce for blood. The cauldron of war-passions is even now beginning to seethe; and unless the friends of peace rally soon to check this burst of popular excitement, it may ere-long sweep in a gulf-stream over the country, and drift us into a war fraught with an amount of guilt and mischief utterly incalculable.

Such a catastrophe it is *now* in the power of good men to prevent. There are in our country about fifteen thousand ministers of the gospel, not less than one million and a half professed disciples of the Prince of Peace, and some fifty religious papers sending their influence into almost every neighborhood in the land, besides millions of virtuous, philanthropic, reflecting citizens, ready at a proper call to rally on the side of peace; and, if only one half, or even one quarter of all these would at once array themselves firmly against war in *any* event of this controversy, our rulers would be held back from bloodshed long enough for passion to cool, and reason to regain her ascendancy, and devise better means than bullets and bayonets for the settlement of such a dispute between civilized men. The friends of peace among us, without leaders, or organs, know not their own strength; but if every religious press, every minister, every Christian, and every friend of his country and his species, would, without regard to sect or party, take an open, bold, decided stand against a resort to arms in this case, all the war-clouds now in our horizon would soon be dissipated.

We call, then, upon all such persons to bear their solemn, unflinching testimony against these war-movements. The lowest friends of peace must regard them as utterly, most glaringly inconsistent with the gospel; and the war-sentiments now echoed and reëchoed through the land, we deem a stigma on our character as a Christian people. Not a few political leaders of each party talk on this subject more like heathens and savages than the representatives of a Christian community; and we beseech not only the followers of Christ, but all sober, virtuous persons among us, to frown upon these bloody sentiments as a disgrace not to be borne in silence. What! are we tacitly to acquiesce in the savage demand, that '*the whole country be deluged with blood, and every field whitened with the bones of our citizens,*' sooner than submit the point in dispute to the slow, uncertain result of negotiation or reference! This the spirit, these the doctrines, of that gospel which bids us follow peace with all men and love even our enemies, and turn the other cheek to the smiter, and resist not evil, but

overcome it with good, and be patient, kind and long-suffering under the worst injuries! Christianity allow the wholesale butcheries of war for the settlement of national boundaries, and conflicting claims of jurisdiction! No; every dollar wasted, would be a species of robbery; every death a murder; and every principle of the gospel would require us to resist such a war by all lawful means, and refuse to aid it by our services, our money, or our influence.

How suicidal, too, would be the policy of such a contest! The whole territory in dispute is worth only a few millions of dollars; but we could not even begin the war in earnest without an outlay of some fifty or a hundred millions, nor carry it on without an equal expenditure every year, and an incidental loss to the nation of several times as much. It would take one or two thousand millions to cover the probable waste of property by both parties, in a protracted contest about a forest not worth the two hundredth part of such a sum; and when we farther anticipate its sacrifice of human life, the domestic anguish and desolation it would send through the land, its ruin of immortal souls by thousands, the floods of vice and crime it would pour over the whole country, and all its baleful influences on the cause of religion, on the progress of general improvement, and upon every enterprise of Christian benevolence or reform, we cannot refrain from recording before heaven and earth *our most solemn protest against every proposal of war with the land of our fathers and brethren.*

Tell us the use of such a contest. Waste millions on millions of treasure; cripple our commerce, our manufactures, all our gainful enterprises; drench the land in blood, and fill it with the wailings of widows and orphans; roll over ourselves, over England, over the world, a flood of the direst evils; would all this end the dispute? Every school-boy knows that we must, after all, cease to fight, and resort to negotiation or reference as the *only* means of terminating *any* quarrel between civilized nations. To such expedients we *must* come, sooner or later; and the only question is, whether we shall do so *before* or *after* fighting! Must scores or hundreds of thousands of the *people* die a tiger's death on the field of battle, just to make *rulers* willing *now* to use what they know perfectly well to be the only means that can ever settle the dispute?

Every plea for war in this case we are constrained to discard as altogether insufficient. Do you say we are clearly in the right? We neither deny nor doubt the justness of our claims; nor would we have them surrendered; but we protest against this barbarous method of asserting them. Do you reply that we have no other means left? If it were so, would

the gospel permit all the atrocities of war for the vindication of our right to rule over a forest? But the plea is false, for England has never declined negotiation or reference; and if she had, we might employ better means than the sword for bringing her to terms. But do you fear dishonor from forbearance? Such forbearance the gospel requires; and obedience to God can never disgrace individuals or nations. Be it that England is wrong; will our own conscience, or the common sense of the world, reproach *us* for *her* wrong doings? The wickedness of our neighbor cannot tarnish our character; but if it did, we could not mend the matter by imbruing our hands in his blood, or setting ourselves up as targets for his wrath. Calm reliance on the justness of our cause; patient endurance of injuries repeated for years; frank, earnest, confiding appeals to British justice and magnanimity; a willingness to surrender even unquestionable rights rather than maintain them by deluging two nations in blood;—would such a course, the only one allowed by the gospel, dishonor a Christian people? Does our religion permit us to avenge insults by bloodshed, as the only preservative from disgrace? Against such sentiments we solemnly protest, and think it high time that this strange delusion, the relic of a pagan and barbarous age, were utterly discarded by every community calling itself Christian.

The present crisis devolves on every one of us an awful responsibility; and fain would we call aloud upon every religious editor, upon every minister of Christ, upon every church, upon every Christian and every philanthropist, high and low, male and female, to use their utmost influence against a war with England as repugnant to every principle of the gospel, and sure to occasion evils which no arithmetic can calculate, no human sagacity foresee. Write against it, preach against it, pray against it, talk against it, array against it all the good influences in the land, rally at once from every quarter, to the rescue of two nations from the threatened evils of war; and if it should after all come, then, only then, will *your* hands be clean of its blood.

The case demands an *immediate* antidote. What we do, must be done quickly; and especially would we urge every minister in the sanctuary, and every Christian in his family and his closet, to bear this subject before the mercy-seat of Him who ruleth among the nations, and hath the hearts of all entirely in his hands. The representatives of a whole denomination cannot meet to recommend in season a general concert of fasting and prayer; but we would suggest to every local church the expediency of setting apart a day for this purpose as soon as possible; and may the God of peace, the

Almighty Ruler of heaven and earth, lend a gracious ear to the supplications of his people, and cause peace and prosperity still to continue in all our borders!

In behalf of the American Peace Society, by order of the Executive Committee,
 GEO. C. BECKWITH,
Corresponding Secretary.

EFFECTS OF A WAR WITH ENGLAND.

WASTE OF PROPERTY.

The war-mania seems to bereave men of reason. They cease to calculate consequences, and rush into certain ruin, very like madmen leaping into the fire or flood. "If statesmen," says Franklin, "had a little more arithmetic, or were more accustomed to calculation, wars would be much less frequent;" and it would be well for us, before plunging into a war with the most formidable power in Christendom, to count the probable cost to ourselves in treasure and blood, in crime and misery.

1. *Its direct expenses.* England expended in our revolutionary conflict about \$600,000,000; our last war cost us forty or fifty millions a year; and a war with Great Britain, now at peace with the world, and in the fulness of her strength, would doubtless absorb two or three times as much. War has come to be enormously expensive. Our ships of the line are said to cost us, in actual service, each about \$1,500 a day, more than half a million a year; and, if only thirty or forty of these should be sent forth to cope with the hundreds which England has at her command, we should have here an annual item of some twenty millions; nor could we fully protect our two thousand miles of sea-coast with less than fifty millions a year. In our Florida war we have expended, it is said, an average of *twelve dollars a day for every soldier*; and 100,000 soldiers, a number far too small for a war with England, would, if only the quarter as expensive, cost us \$109,500,000 a year. Add to this the support of the navy, and a hundred other incidental expenses, and we should swell the sum total to more than \$150,000,000 as the annual cost of the war proposed for the vindication of our right to a territory not worth a million! The war might continue five or ten years; and, if only five years, its entire expenses would, at this rate, amount to \$750,000,000!—all for *one* million!

2. *Its incidental destruction of property.* The war, if on land, would be a continual scene of plunder and devastation to a fearful extent; and, if mainly on sea, it would still lay in ruins no small number of our cities and villages on the coast. The amount of such losses, it would be impossible to anticipate; but it would take only a few rounds of hot shot from a hostile fleet upon one of our sea-ports, to annihilate millions of property, and beggar hundreds or thousands of families.—Still more certain and extensive would be the losses of commerce. Our imports and exports amounted, in 1836, to nearly \$300,000,000; the coasting trade may be supposed to embrace nearly as much more, since the mere manufactures of Massachusetts alone, interchanged, for the most part, along our coast, were in 1836, more than \$80,000,000; and thus there would be, at the commencement